

Black Bass Fishing in Maryland—2013

Black bass is one of the most-prized sport fish in Maryland and our fisheries are among the best in the country. The Potomac River and upper Chesapeake Bay remain perennial hotspots, although fishing was sluggish on the tidal Potomac River in 2013. We thank the anglers and tournament directors who participated in surveys that help support conservation of Largemouth Bass populations in Maryland.

Recreational Angling

(results from 2013 MD DNR Volunteer Angler Survey)

- Largemouth Bass is the most targeted fish by freshwater tidal and non-tidal recreational anglers
- Twice as many anglers reported fishing in impoundments than tidal rivers
- 98% of Largemouth Bass were released in 2013
- Largemouth Bass anglers spent almost 30% more per trip than other anglers who aren't targeting Largemouth Bass
- Successful bass anglers fished about 5 hours, 2 hours more than those who didn't catch bass



Photo: MD DNR

New State Record

Colton Lambert (age 12) of Huntingtown, MD properly holding his state record bass after breaking the nearly 30-year old freshwater state record on July 31, 2013. The bass was 11.375 lbs, 26 inches long and came from a Huntingtown farm pond.

Tell us about your fishing day

<http://tinyurl.com/VASsurvey>

Tournament Fishing



Photo: FLW Outdoors

In 2013, tournament directors registered over 300 tournaments and reported catch data from over 250 of those, including 60 from freshwater impoundments. Data are currently being used to help conduct an assessment of Potomac River fishery. Tournament directors are registering their tournaments for the 2014 year. Check them out!

List of upcoming tournaments

<http://tinyurl.com/dnrtbp>



Photo: MBN

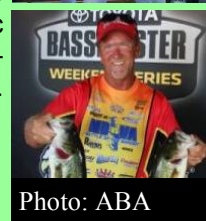


Photo: ABA

2013 By the Numbers

- 71.4% ▶ Percentage of Potomac River tournaments held at Smallwood State Park
- 65.5% ▶ Percentage of Upper Bay tournaments held at Anchor Marina
- 60,000+hrs ▶ Time tournament anglers fished
- 47,000+lbs ▶ Total weight of bass weighed in by tournament anglers
- 3.3 hrs ▶ Average time to catch a keeper during 15"-season on Potomac
- 4.5 hrs ▶ Average time to catch a keeper during 15"-season on Upper Bay
- 98% ▶ Average reported survivorship of Largemouth Bass after weigh-in and then released

IMPORTANT!

Largemouth Bass Virus (LMBV) has been detected in several rivers of Chesapeake Bay, including Potomac and Upper Bay. MD DNR is testing fish every 3 years to monitor LMBV. Here's how you can help, <http://tinyurl.com/awsjvn4>

TOP TEN Reported Tournament Lunkers

1.	8.19 lbs	4/20/2013	Potomac	FLW
2.	7.52 lbs	4/20/2013	Upper Bay	Premier Marine
3.	7.37 lbs	4/28/2013	Potomac	PABFN
4.	7.31 lbs	4/13/2013	Potomac	FLW
5.	7.30 lbs	6/01/2013	Potomac	FLW
6.	7.22 lbs	4/07/2013	Upper Bay	PA Bass Fed.
7.	7.07 lbs	8/10/2013	Rocky Gap	Rocky Gap BM
8.	6.90 lbs	7/13/2013	Little Seneca	Fish On
9.	6.89 lbs	8/16/2013	Upper Bay	PABFN
10.	6.87 lbs	9/07/2013	Potomac	Am. Bass Anglers

Live well Tips to Keep Fish Alive

- Don't overload the live well.
- Use a minimum 750gal/hour pump.
- Use ice and water exchanges to keep live well water temperatures 5 to 7° F below ambient water temp.
- In hot weather, re-circulate the water every two minutes and exchange the water every 2-3 hours.
- On cooler days, circulate the water every 2-9 minutes and exchange the water every half to one hour.